

## The Status of Knowledge Management in Teaching Hospitals Affiliated to Tehran Universities of Medical Sciences

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### Abstract

Knowledge management is one of the modern management approaches, which has become the key to success in organizations. For this reason, the purpose of the present paper is to investigate the status of knowledge management in education and treatment centers of Tehran Universities of Medical Sciences. This study was a descriptive-analytical survey. The statistical population included all the staffs of hospitals of Tehran Universities of Medical Sciences. Sample size was estimated 502 persons using random sampling method. Data collection tool is Probst's knowledge management questionnaire. Reliability of the questionnaire was obtained 0.89 using Cronbach's alpha, and its validity has been confirmed by experienced professors. In order to analyze the data using SPSS software, T test, ANOVA test, correlation coefficient, and regression were used. According to the obtained data, it was found that the status of knowledge management and its dimensions (Goals, identification, acquisition, development, distribution, use, preservation, and knowledge measurement) in the studied hospitals was at an average level. Considering the responsibility of teaching and treatment centers in educating students, more attention should be paid to knowledge management in these organizations and it should be prioritized. Therefore, knowing their status in the scope of knowledge management, the authorities of the hospitals should focus on all dimensions so as to reduce the interval between the status quo and the desired status.

**Keywords:** knowledge management, teaching hospital, Tehran

### 1. Introduction

In today's world, the competitive conditions and environments of many organizations are very complicated and variable and more extensive than what it was in the past. This pace is significantly more than the response time and the capacity to adapt to the new environment (Niroomand & Zare, 2008). Alvin Toffler believes that entering into the 21st century as the meta-theory era will attract people if human beings can bear the burden of its changes and accept them courageously. This entails having knowledge, skill, insight, and dynamism (Sadeghi, Jafari, Khodayari, Pakdaman, Mohammadi & Ahadinezhad, 2011). Drucker (1999) states that if in the 20th century, the most valuable asset of a company was its production facilities, in the 21st century, knowledge workers and their efficiency are considered the most important and the most valuable asset of companies (Huang & Chen, 2009).

Other pioneer theorists in the field of organization and management believe that investment of a company on knowledge is more profitable than that on its components (Nonaka, Takeuchi & Umemoto, 1996). Organizations need knowledge management so as to be able to survive in the competitions, adapt to the changes of the creative